



Evergreen Notes

Volume 20, Issue 10

2021 EVERGREEN ANNUAL MEETING is ONLINE ONLY!

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Dudley
Executive Minister of Metro New York



Theme Verse: Colossians 2:6-7 (The Message)

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. **You're deeply rooted in him.** You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving."

Due to rising Covid cases, consensus was reached to move the Annual Meeting to **ONLINE ONLY** and registration has been **EXTENDED** through Sunday, October 3, 2021.

Registration form available online at [Annual Meeting 2021 \(ea-abc.org\)](https://www.ea-abc.org/annual-meeting-2021)

Registration Fee: \$50.

The information for how to access the annual meeting online will be emailed to you following successful registration.

Scholarships are available: Please email doug@ea-abc.org for more information.

Register now.... There's still time! And we need your voice!

Problems/concerns: email clem@ea-abc.org

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Pray for Churches Seeking Pastoral Leadership

- ♦ Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church
- ♦ Filipino-American Christian Fellowship (FACF)
- ♦ Fairview Community Church, and
- ♦ Mount Zion Baptist Church

Please register now!

Fighting Racism in the Church



Racism is raising its ugly head throughout

our society, from hate crimes against blacks, Jews, Muslims and Asian-Americans to racially motivated voter suppression, to racial profiling in law enforcement. It is spurred on by white supremacists, rallied to insurrection and encouraged by the hateful rhetoric of a former President.

Can the Church just sit on the sidelines in the midst of this social upheaval? Should we just hide in our Zoom meetings, waiting for all of this to just go away? Should we just be “impartial” while racism rips our society apart and tears away at our Christian values? If we do that, we will no longer be the Church of Jesus Christ!

The Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church (WBBC) is new to the Evergreen Association, but we are not new to standing up against racism. We have recently done studies on Drew Hart’s book, *Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, and *White Awake* by Daniel Hill. Members have also been active in Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice, and the Washington Immigrant Support Network (WAISN). On the behalf of the latter, several members have volunteered to escort immigrants to court hearings to protect them from unlawful detention by ICE. The church also has a “sister church” relationship with the Karen Community Church of Greater Seattle and we have visited each other’s church on several occasions over a number of years.

It can also be said that part of respecting other races is having a wider concern for people outside of our own country and narrow communities. WBBC is active in its support of the girls and young women abducted by Boko Haram in Nigeria. We also support our ABC work in Haiti. We urge our brothers and sisters in Evergreen to continue in prayer for people in both countries.

-Dr. Keith Madsen
Retired ABC pastor and proud member of the Wenatchee Brethren-Baptist Church



Rev. Dr. Madsen

Seattle Baptist Union member Churches

Save the Date: November 13, 2021—10 o’clock AM

SBU Annual Meeting, Online ONLY!!

Details coming soon.

2021 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events ONLINE ONLY

All events taking place online—Zoom and/or Facebook Live

Thursday, October 7th
Ministers Council Gathering TBA

Friday, October 8th

1PM - Welcome Plenary
1:45 PM - Workshops 1 (see description on page 4)
3:45 PM - Workshops 2 (see description on page 4)
5 PM - Dinner Break
7 PM - Worship

Saturday, October 9th

9:15 AM - Business Session Review
9:45 AM - Caucus Meetings
11 AM - Plenary/Business meeting
12:15 PM - Lunch
1:30 PM - Workshops 3 (see description on page 4)
3:30 PM - Workshops 4 (see description on page 4)
5 PM - Dinner
7 PM - Worship

Please go online to www.ea-abc.org and click on
“Give” to donate.

We are grateful for your continued support!

Workshop Descriptions:

Friday: Workshop Session 1, 1:45 PM

A) Homelessness - Multi-tiered Response - Olympia, WA

Facilitators: Theo Yu and Mark Rambo

Come listen and dialogue how Homelessness is being addressed in our host city as well as Olympia First Baptist's evolving story of responding to the challenges of our homeless neighbors.

B) Anti-Racism Team

Facilitators - Rev. Wim Mauldin and Rev. Jim Hopkins

Roots and Wings: We will explore the biblical and theological roots of the work of anti-racism and celebrate the ways in which that work is and can yet unfold in meaningful and beautiful ways in Evergreen congregations. A formative question for this workshop is: Are there uniquely Christian ways by which to dismantle racism?

Friday: Workshop Session 2, 3:45 PM

A) Local Churches Serving Multi-Ethnic Communities

Leadership - Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle

This workshop will address dynamics of exclusion and inclusion that take place in multi-ethnic contexts. Together, we will explore our different roles in building space for all, the path to restoration, and a new criterion for oneness. Participants will be able to share their experiences and learn from one another.

B) Transitioning Ministry into a Post-Pandemic World

Facilitator - Rev. Samuel Kim

Saturday: Workshop Session 3, 1:30 PM

A) Hospitality and Community in a Fragmented World

Facilitators - Rev. Samuel Kim & Pastor Angeline Lau

B) Sharing the Good News in the 21st Century

Speakers: Rev. Guadalupe Vásquez, Rev. Mario Morales, and Rev. Dr. Horacio Da Valle

The church faces unprecedented challenges in the new millennium. As congregations dwindle, they must think, prepare and adapt to resurrect as faithful communities that actively proclaim the Good News centered in Divine Love to transform the challenges of our times: Poverty, Racism, Economism, Militarism, Sexism, Anti-immigrant Sentiment and the destruction of our planet, which is leading to the extinction of life as we know it.

C) Burma/Myanmar - Ministry, Mission, Advocacy, Partnership

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Paul Aita & Guests

Saturday: Workshop Session 4, 3:30 PM

An Artful Approach to Reckoning Racialized Trauma on the Way Towards Collective Liberation

Facilitator: Rev. Mylinda Baits

ABHMS Honors Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III, Unveils New Learning Center



VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 9/27/21)—

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) dedicated the new Dr. Aidsand F. Wright-Riggins III Learning Center—which provides practical mission education for today’s disciples—on Sept. 21 in honor of its executive director emeritus who led the organization for 24 years, the longest continuous leadership tenure in the organization’s history.

Delayed from last year due to the ongoing pandemic, the ceremony hosted around three dozen guests, in accordance with CDC-recommended pandemic protocols, in ABHMS’ Leadership and Mission Building in King of Prussia, Pa. The Learning Center boasts multiple small offices that will be utilized for break-out groups and smaller gatherings as well as a large area for classroom-style learning experiences.

“I am just deeply honored and thankful that ABHMS would choose

to recognize me in this way,” said Wright-Riggins in response to the dedication. “My mother was a teacher—the first Black woman to teach in the Compton (Calif.) school district—as well as the first college-educated person in my family, so education has always been important to me. In naming this center after me, ABHMS honors me, honors my wife and her family, and honors my mother on what would have been her 100th birthday.” In opening remarks, Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, ABHMS executive director, said: “I could cite a list of programs that were launched, expanded or strengthened under Aidsand’s leadership. His name opens doors even now for me, as so many people recognize the impact he had on our American Baptist denomination. We at ABHMS are honored that Dr. Wright-Riggins consented to naming this center for him.”

The Learning Center is the bricks-and-mortar

home of the ABHMS Center for Continuous Learning (CCL), a virtual platform committed to equipping leaders as disciples, making disciples into leaders and training God’s people to fulfill their ministry passions through in-person, online and hybrid learning experiences that include webinars, courses, conferences and certificate programs. Although the dedication just took place, programs offered by the CCL have already launched. The Rev. Rebecca Irwin-Diehl is the center’s director.

“The Learning Center is an awesome opportunity to continue educating while building on our roots and legacy,” said the Rev. Dr. Christine Roush, a member of ABHMS’ Learning Center team. For more information, visit <https://ccl.ministrelife.org/>.

Happenings Around the Region



*******American Baptist Women's Ministries of the Pacific Northwest** decided to postpone, and reschedule Annual Conference to late April or early May, 2022. **HOWEVER**, ...a **Virtual Event** is scheduled for **October 2, 2021** (lasting about three hours: Meet the new National President- **Rev. Dr. Christine Smith**, Worship Service with **Rev. Dr. Barbara Reid**, Music by the **"The Cuzins"**, and **Gail Aita**, PNW-ABW Ministries President, for a necessary short business meeting.)
October 2nd is upon us!

Nadine Glass PNW-ABW Ministries Secretary

Wenatchee Brethren Baptist Church is seeking a Pastor for the Interim.

Panther Lake Community Church is looking forward to the beginning of October, when the **Karen Community Church** will start to worship at the PLCC facilities. That will mean three Evergreen/ABC congregations housed together (the other being the **Washington Kachin Baptist Church**).

Minister to People from Burma, Rev. Paul Aita, shared, "It is our hope that the arrangement will be much more than sharing space, but an on-going opportunity to share in ministry together".

News from Pastor Boyer, Good Shepherd Baptist Church: Effective September 30, 2021, Rev. M. Christopher Boyer resigned the pastorate of Good Shepherd Baptist Church. The Boyers will resettle in St. Louis.

The **Board of Deacons at Good Shepherd Baptist Church (GSBC)** has entered into a contract with **Rev. Denise Aanenson** to serve as Interim Pastor.

Rev. Aanenson has served GSBC as Associate Pastor and First Baptist Church Mountlake Terrace, as Interim Pastor. Resigning Pastor, Rev. M. Christopher Boyer endorsed the incoming interim saying, "Rev. Aanenson is a beloved friend and valued colleague, and I am delighted to be handing [Good Shepherd Baptist Church] to her hands in the next two weeks".

Nzunga & Kihomi Continue Visit in Congo

Dear Loved Ones,

Greetings. We have moved from the Methodist Guest House (MPH) to join family members. There is no internet service here.

Mothers are stable. Nzunga's mother is fine. She needs to eat even though only small bites at a time. She has no more meat just bones on bones and God's free breath. Her spirit is strong. From time to time, she cracks jokes. She does not see but remembers everybody who visits. She spends more time in prayers and singing which she is well known for. She sang in choirs/solo all her entire life. She counsels all her visitors.

Kihomi's mom had pneumonia when we arrived and low intake of oxygen. We got her treated. She is fine but still with a limited movement of her whole body after a stroke al-

most 5 years ago. She has missed 5 years of physical therapy. With a short-term memory loss, she is a delight when she is fully aware. She has been surrounded by a bunch of her



nieces, nephews, grand and great-grand children who keep her on her toes and bring joy no one can buy from any store on earth.

Life is different over here. It was different and has become stranger since we left 24 years ago. Churches with loudspeakers are everywhere. Some of them side by side. Young with no theological education are

becoming evangelists, bishops, pastors. I have three in my extended family.

Roads are evaded by young people doing motorcycle taxis and small cars with a left steering wheel. Traffic jams all day long is another phenomenon currently here. Streets are all becoming big open markets. Indians, Pakistanis have become big patrons ruling the commerce.

We are fine.

Yours in Congo.
Nzunga & Kihomi

They returned stateside on September 11th. Wanting to go to Haiti but not likely under current situation there.

Denny Shewell

Every September and October, congregations come together for a time of awareness, advocacy and action for global mission. Through the World Mission Offering (WMO) churches across the country celebrate and support the ministries that God is using to transform the world.





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Return Service Requested

Evergreen Notes, the newsletter for member churches, ecumenical partners, national affiliates, and friends of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches is published monthly.

Please submit articles by the 20th of the month prior to expected publication.

You are encouraged to copy and/or reprint information and articles for your congregation and community.



Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal
Executive Minister

Building Bridges, Resourcing Churches & Translating Our Unity

Calendar of Upcoming Event

Executive Committee continues to meet monthly on the second Thursday at 6:30 PM via Zoom during the Corona Virus pandemic.

SAVE THE DATES: Leaders Retreat, the weekend of February 11, 2022, at Camp Burton (Event may move to online)

Mission Statement

Being a culturally diverse people who are one in Christ and who value the liberties of our American Baptist Heritage, the Evergreen Baptist Association will

Build bridges between communities;

Provide resources to **equip member churches** to share Christ and teach God’s word; and

Translate our unity to the world.